

*Mildred V. Young*

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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32503

May 3, 1999

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Commissioner Jane E. Henney  
Parklawn Bldg., Rm. 14-71  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

It was recently brought to my attention in a seniors' group meeting that antibiotics are being fed routinely to poultry and some other animals whose meat we eat. This to me is an alarming trend! Most people today are aware that some antibiotics become resistant to bacteria if they are overused--I have a fear that I may contribute to that by using antibacterial soaps for too many purposes in my home.

Is it necessary to routinely feed antibiotics to animals? Such use will lead inevitably to bacteria resistance to the antibiotics. Shouldn't such feeding be done only in a case of proven necessity? The major portion of my eating of protein is that of chicken breasts or fish--I'm thankful fish probably escape, but I would hate to have to drop chicken from my own diet. Younger members of my family eat a lot of beef and/or pork, while in one instance trying to limit their children to the ham (easy to cut up for the youngest ones). Even baby foods may include some of those foods from animals fed antibiotics--frightening idea!

Saving human lives can sometimes be saved *only* by the proper use of one or more of the antibiotics. Therefore I ask that all medically useful ones for humans be reserved to human usage--not fed indiscriminately to animals whose meat is part of the human food chain, leading to bacteria resistant antibiotics--and leaving the human with no effective antibiotic treatment.

Thanks for your help on this.

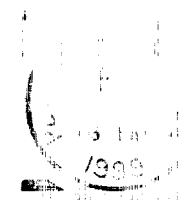
Very truly yours,

*M. V. Young*

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